Institute of India (TERI), our Center for High Technology, our Oil Industry Safety Directorate, Indian Oil's R&D Centre, and all our other scientific and technological research and development institutions at the service of all Asia. It is said that one in every three Information Technologists in the world is an Indian. Our achievement in petroleum technology is perhaps less spectacular. But we would be more than happy to share what we know with our fellow-Asians and even more to learn from others, above all to learn from our fellow-Asians.

As we embark on this historic initiative which will, I hope, bring us together frequently, even up to once or preferably twice a year, perhaps alternately in a net oil exporting and a net oil importing country of Asia, and perhaps progressively expanding our ambit while keeping our core intact, I welcome all of you once again to our national capital and wish you all a pleasant and fruitful stay in our midst.

Your Excellencies, I thank you, one and all.

ONGC'S investment in Sudan

119. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of oil which ONGC has extracted from the Sudan oil wells thus far;

(b) the capital invested in the Sudan oil wells by ONGC thus far;

(c) the additional funds which have to be invested in Sudan by ONGC to complete the project; and

(d) the quantum of oil which has been estimated to be in the oil wells in Sudan fields?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) A 25% Participating Interest (PI) in the Greater Nile Oil Project (GNOP) in Sudan was acquired by ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) through its wholly owned subsidiary company ONGC Nile Ganga B.V. on the 12th March, 2003. Since then, OVL's share in the production from GNOP in Sudan has been as follows:

2002-03	0.18 MMT
(12th March, 2003 to 31st March, 2003)	

2003-04	3.323MMT
2004-05	2.765MMT
(till 31st December, 2004)	
Total	6.268 MMT

(b) OVL acquired 25% participating interest (PI) in GNOP Sudan for a net consideration of about US $ 669 million. Further exploration and development expenditure till the 31st December, 2004 amounts to about US $ 160.40 million.

OVL have also acquired 24.125% PI in exploration Block 5A and 23.5% PI in exploration Block 5B in Sudan from OMVAktiengesellschaft, Austria on the 12th May, 2004 at a consideration of about US $ 135 million. Further expenditure on these blocks on exploration and development till the 31st December, 2004 amounts to about US $ 13 million.

(c) Based on the tentative plan, the Joint Operating Company of GNOP has estimated an exploration and development expenditure of about US $ 350 million during the year 2005 to 2009, the period for which projections are currently available.

In Block 5A, one field has so far been identified for development, for which an expenditure of about US $ 147 million has at present been estimated.

(d) The company's share of Balance Proved reserves in GNOP, Sudan was 20.398 MMT as on the 31st March, 2004. OVL's share in discovered reserves in Block 5A is about 5.89 MMT.

Oil refinery in Punjab

120. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY; Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decided to set up a crude oil refinery in Punjab for refining oil recently discovered in Western Rajasthan;

(b) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has threatened to block the pipeline to be laid for the proposed refinery; and

(c) the steps taken to solve the problem?